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Confusion, Pressure Felt in Washington

Foreign Setbacks, Harder Soviet
Line Banish Early Optimism,
Bring Rethinking, Intensified
Effort to Meet Red Bloc Threat

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By JOHN N. REDDIN, of The Journal Staff

WASHINGTON, D. C.—One of the highest ranking members of the Kennedy administration has this to say to fact seeking visitors to Washington: "If you leave more confused than when you came, you will be more in touch with reality." Confusion, frustration, anger, humiliation and some recrimination exploded on the heels of the abortive invasion of Cuba and still seethe. Cuba colors every conversation in Washington—where men speak frankly mainly off the record.

But, even without Cuba, there is growing realization throughout officialdom that this is a world of confusion—and a world filled with danger and hard realities.

Cold War Thaw Less Likely

The major reality is that Russia and the Communist world show fewer signs of easing the cold war or curbing expansionist ambitions. In the first days of the Kennedy administration there was a deliberate attempt at quiet diplomacy, seeking some basis for agreement with Russia on world problems.

Administration officials believe that the attempt was necessary. But they no longer feel optimistic that it can succeed.

After what looked like early successes in foreign affairs the administration has had severe setbacks and faces crisis spots over the world.

Laos, however the cease fire works out, has largely fallen to the Communists.

guerrillas operate in neighboring South Vietnam. The Soviet buildup in Laos was far beyond local needs.

With well stocked bases in Laos, guerrilla operations in Vietnam become easier. One expert warns that it could fall within the year. The situation is so serious that studies are under way contemplating American action there.

Soviet willingness to operate openly far from its own homeland is proved in Cuba. Cuba's danger is not directly to the United States but to Latin America. While governments there show growing disenchantment with Fidel Castro he is still attractive to many peasants and others who dream of land, education and dignity denied them by rigid social and economic systems.

Africa is a hodgepodge of problems. Portugal sits on a powder keg in Angola, where American estimates indicate that more people are killed each

China is a constant menace everywhere. It is an open threat to its neighbors. It works at subversion in Latin America and Africa. It tries for a strong position in Cuba.

China has all the classic reasons for expansionism. It is

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